

CLAIMS

1. Method of producing a recombinant membrane receptor in a baculovirus/insect cell system, from a culture of insect cells infected with a recombinant baculovirus expressing the gene encoding the said membrane receptor, which method is characterized in that the said membrane receptor is obtained from extracellular baculoviruses produced by the said infected cells.
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2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said receptor belongs to the superfamily of receptors with seven transmembrane domains.
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3. Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that the said receptor belongs to the family of G-protein-coupled receptors.
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4. Method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it comprises, in addition, a step during which the extracellular baculoviruses produced by the said infected cells are harvested and they are separated from the cellular fractions.
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5. Method according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it comprises, in addition, a step during which the extracellular baculoviruses produced by the said infected cells are lysed.
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6. Method according to Claim 5, characterized in that it also comprises a step during which the lysate obtained at the end of the preceding step is fractionated, and the fraction comprising the said membrane receptor is recovered.
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7. Preparation of membrane receptor, characterized in that it is capable of being obtained by a method according to any one of Claims 4 to 6.
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8. Preparation of membrane receptor according to Claim 7, characterized in that prior to any purification carried out on the basis of the activity of the relevant receptor, at least 90%, and preferably at least 95%, of the said receptor is in an active form.

9. Use of an extracellular baculovirus, obtained from a culture of insect cells infected with a recombinant baculovirus expressing the gene encoding a membrane receptor, for the production of preparations 5 of the said membrane receptor.

10. Use of an extracellular baculovirus as defined in Claim 9, or of a preparation of membrane receptor as defined in either of Claims 7 and 8, for the production of a model for studying the properties of the said 10 membrane receptor.

11. Use according to Claim 10, characterized in that the said extracellular baculovirus or the said preparation of membrane receptor are used for the screening of molecules which are active on the said 15 membrane receptor.